

REMARKS

This paper is responsive to an Official Action that issued in this case January 7, 2004. In that Action, the Office rejected the claims on several bases. In particular:

- Claims 1-4, 6, 7, and 14-17 were rejected under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by the NIST Chemistry WebBook.
- Claims 1-8, 20, 22-23 and 25 were rejected under 35 USC §103 as being obvious over admitted prior art.
- Claim 24 was rejected under 35 USC 112, ¶2 as being indefinite.
- Claim 21 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but otherwise allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim.

Responsive to the Action, claims 1-8, 14-17, and 21 are hereby cancelled, claim 20 is amended, and new claims 26-29 are added. Reconsideration is requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

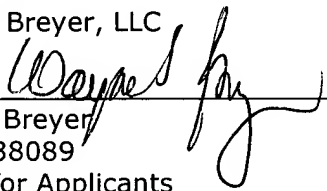
Claim 20 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 21; consequently, claim 20 is now allowable. An antecedent problem with claim 24, which is the basis for the rejection of that claim, is now overcome by the amendment to claim 20. As a consequence, previously-presented claims 22-25, which depend on claim 20, are now allowable. Since new claims 26-29 depend on claim 20, they are allowable as well. New claims 26-29 essentially repeat the language of respective original claims 2, 6, 7, and 5, but with a claim 20 (rather than claim 1) as the base claim.

It is believed that claims 20 and 22-29 now presented for examination are allowable over the art of record. A notice to that effect is therefore solicited.

Respectfully,

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